

The Rainier Review Thirty-five Years Old

This week the Rainier Review celebrates its thirty-fifth birthday, having been started with the issue of July 20, 1905. W. P. Ely and G. E. Kellogg were the editors that started the paper, and they advertised that they were equipped to do job printing as well as to put out a weekly newspaper. The paper was a four page sheet with five columns. Two months later the paper increased in size to a seven column sheet. Some time within the first few weeks after starting G. E. Kellogg must have dropped out of the partnership as the name of A. P. Betterworth appeared on the masthead as editor. He was very soon replaced by G. H. Umbaugh. The paper also went back after a few more weeks to the original size of five columns.

Files from the beginning are not complete and the next record is from May 21, 1908 when a hooster edition was put out. This was as an anniversary edition to celebrate the coming of the railroad to Rainier ten years before, May 18, 1898. A story states that Rainier was a town of 300 until the railroad came and that it had grown to a place of 2,000 at the end of the ten-year period. Several pictures of old timers were used including a picture of Dean Blanchard, Thomas E. Hughes, Mayor; J. B. Doan, L. B. Rutherford, Parker Stennick, James Jesse, marshal at that time, and others.

Walter Fry was the editor of the paper from 1908 to 1911. In March of 1911 the ownership changed and P. C. Garrison became the publisher and editor. L. Swett, McMillan Mercantile, Fred Trow, Rainier Electric Co., C. A. Nutt, E. M. Young, W. C. Shofner, Rainier Land Company and Rainier Pharmacy were among the prominent advertisers.

Charles A. Nutt joined the newspaper as editor in 1912, with Garrison still remaining the publisher. Later Mr. Nutt was the sole owner. The paper had in the meantime grown in size again to a seven column paper,

the change to the bigger size coming about 1909. However, the news in the Review was practically absent. A few filler stories with plate and a very few locals made up the paper. Even when a change was made in ownership of the paper nothing was said about the editor, where he came from, where the outgoing editor went from here or anything else.

New business enterprises came to the community and it was growing but there are few stories to tell much of their beginning. Still we hear much about the good old days and what they had been. News and editorial did appear in the paper, however, when C. A. Nutt was its editor, and business much exceeded the present time. Rainier in those days was a prosperous small town.

In the issue of September 18, 1910, we find ownership changed to A. E. Veatch and in that issue find mention in the editorial column of the new editor's coming. There are editorials by the two, C. A. Nutt extended good wishes to the community and stated that he plans to go to Montana to enter the banking business. A. E. Veatch introduces himself with an editorial in which he states that he comes to Rainier with 22 years of newspaper experience and hopes for the prosperity of Rainier. Mr. Veatch is perhaps best remembered of all Rainier's editors. Some liked him. Some did not, but he was a colorful figure in Rainier's history. He was brilliant. He took a decided stand on any issue according to his own convictions, and Rainier knew they had a paper. Mr. Veatch died here on April 6, 1934. A Mr. Fulton took the paper from Mr. Veatch before his death. Paul Paulson, who is now in St. Helens, succeeded him. Dates here are a little uncertain as files are missing for a period at the time of these changes. Mr. Paulson was editor until June 21, 1935, when the paper was transferred to Maurice Nelson. He kept it three

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years and June 1, 1938 sold it to the present owners.

It is interesting to note as we check back over time that Rainier has not changed rapidly except perhaps for the first few years after the railroad came in. Some industries have folded up. Some new ones have come in but the Review has lasted over 35 years and has played a part in the affairs of the community. It remains an institution that the community needs.

Facts From First Issue

A summary of facts quoted from the Rainier Review's first issue follows:

Rainier, the metropolis of Columbia County, Oregon, with a population of one thousand, is beautifully located on the Columbia river, forty-five miles from Portland, and fifty-six miles from Astoria, being connected with the two by the Astoria and Calumbia River Railroad, over which four trains run daily.

The city also has one of the best harbors on the Columbia River and many of the large steamers that do not stop elsewhere make a landing here.

Rainier has a waterfront of over three miles, and several of the large mills located on the water front have excellent private harbors. There is enough magnificent timber within a radius of ten miles of Rainier to keep double the mills now in operation for two decades or more.

One of the finest largest logging camps in the Pacific northwest is that of Yeon & Pelton,

who employ over 150 men winter and summer. The mammoth logging camp is located about three miles from Rainier, in one of the finest timber belts in the United States. This firm has over 8,000 acres of timber land, and has also the only incline railway on the Pacific coast. It is 3,800 feet long and has an incline of 33 per cent. Four large locomotives are used in carrying the logs down the incline, and there is one man to each car. The descent is very dangerous, and a most thrilling one to witness. This big camp is a boon to the city of Rainier, and several others will soon be put in operation by the same firm.

Other large logging camps are Nordby & Wilson who employ over 100 men, and the Rainier Mill and Lumber Company, who employ about 50 men. It is purely a Rainier concern. W. I. Reid is the present manager, and W. E. Morgan who has an office in the Oregonian building is the treasurer. This firm has a splendid wharf and cut about 65,000 feet per day. They ship by rail and make a specialty of high grade lumber and flooring.

G. Rocky has a logging camp and employs about 30 men. W. P. McIntire operates a logging camp employing about 20 men. W. Muckle has a sawmill.

Wm. Holsapple runs a large dairy and vegetable garden from which he supplies the town.

Sam LaVere and M. F. Fowler each conduct a blacksmith shop.

J. Turner is a man who makes shoes to fit and please the logger.

Capt. W. E. Newton owns the water works of the town and the Palace Hotel building.

Martin Both is engaged in buying and shipping fish.

A. Friedberg manufactures cigars and has a confectionery and cigar store.

Wm. Reid buy and sells telegraph poles, piling, etc.

Jack Appleton has a poultry farm.

J. B. E. Bourne writes fire and life insurance.

William Simmons is justice of the peace.

Rev. Alvord and Rev. Taggart look after the spiritual welfare of the community.

Nordby and Suyder had just recently started the Columbia River Door Company.

G. Immens was manufacturing cedar floats for fishing.

Another large industry that had started recently was the Rainier Mineral Soap Company.

Rainier has two churches, a grade and high school. The Rainier cornet band is gaining a reputation all along the Pacific coast.

The secret societies are as follows: The Knights of Pythias, Odd Fellows, Masons, Maccabees, Woodmen of the World, Women of Woodcraft, Foresters of America, Daughters of Rebekah, Rathbone Sisters and Ladies of the Maccabees.

Among the prominent business firms are McClarens drug store, Fred Trow's General Merchandise, L. C. Swetts Department Store, Leonard's Department Store, Ellis & Co., Dean Blanchard's Hardware Store, S. M. Rice's Meat Market, W. J. Deitz Meat Market, Mr. Clark, postmaster who, also sells stationery and musical supplies, J. C. Kilby, liveryman, Mrs. V. Herman has a boarding house, Rainier Grand Hotel is owned by Miles Sherrin, Palace Hotel by Mr. Syverson, James Bros. Saloon and Cafe, Clark and Doherty, buffet and restaurant.

Among the old settlers now living are Deean Blanchard, president of the city council, John Dibble, Mr. Moeck, Judge J. B. Doan, Hon. Martin Both, Postmaster Andrew Clark, John Stehman, M. J. Ketterring.

George Kiser, S. M. Rice, Jos. Silvais an old resident and owns the Railroad saloon.

Dr. D. B. Stuart is the dentist, Dr. McLarin is the physician, Robert C. Wright the city attorney. Mr. Wright is a Portland attorney but has property here. W. C. Fisher is the resident attorney.